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The American Council for Judaism

201 E. 57TH STREET • NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK • TELEPHONE PLAZA 8-6600

December 5, 1958

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
2134 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am writing to ask whether you, a friendly observer of the American Council for Judaism for some time, would honor us by addressing a message to the delegates at our Annual Conference, January 22 to 25, in Chicago.

The general principles of the Council are outlined atop this letterhead. However, I am certain you know that we conduct programs the year 'round to demonstrate these principles through activities of our membership in public affairs, philanthropy and religious education.

It is particularly important to stress our philosophy — as opposed to the "Jewish" nationalist or Zionist position — in view of the tensions threatening world peace and inter-group understanding in the United States.

This year we witnessed blatant pre-election appeals to Jews as a political bloc, renewed efforts by Zionism during the Middle East crises to commit all Americans of Jewish faith to one political objective, and efforts to catapult Jews into the desegregation issue through fear of anti-Semitism.

In each of these problems we strived constantly to demonstrate that Judaism and politics are separate and distinct; and that while Judaism provides the educative and spiritual inspiration for moral action, there are not and must not be spokesmen for all Jews on political and secular matters. This leaves Jews free to shoulder responsibilities of American citizenship as individuals in whatever manner they choose; but it also requires organizations of Jews to desist from implying that they possess a mandate to speak out for all Jews on any political or secular issue.

On the world scene, we worked for peace in the Middle East by recommending that (1) Israel de-Zionize itself; and (2) the Arab states accept Israel as a sovereign neighbor.

I hope that you will favor us with a word of greeting.

Cordially,

Leonard R. Sussman

LRS:jb

15th ANNUAL CONFERENCE • DRAKE HOTEL • CHICAGO • JANUARY 22, 23, 24, 25, 1959

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